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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. War maneuvers were held in the environs of Ljubljana on 14 January 1951, in which the Ljubljana garrison and approximately 3,000 "partisans" took part. The latter were composed of members of the Fighters' Federation (NOV), pre-military training youth, Peoples' Technicians, the Pioneers, and the PAZ (Anti-Aircraft Defense). Organized by the Fighters' Federation of Ljubljana (NOV), the maneuvers consisted of a defense of the city from a simulated attack by enemy troops and were held in the valleys of the Sava and Sora Rivers northwest of Ljubljana, in Tacen, Vizmarije, Medno, Golo Brgo and Dovje. Lt. Colonel Janez Hribar outlined both the plan of attack and the defense plan.
2. A mountain battalion of 600 soldiers from Sent Vid, headed by Captain Gojko Vidmar, represented the attackers. The "partisans" or defenders were headed by Andreja Humar (nickname: "Marko") and were divided into five detachments:
 - 1 Detachment, or "Dako" Detachment - Comprised 600 men from the First Ljubljana Section; commanded by Dane Lepin.
 - 2 Detachment, or "Tone Tomasic" Detachment - Comprised 500 men from the Second Ljubljana Section; commanded by Lujo Smrekar.
 - 3 Detachment, or "Franc Rosman" Detachment - Comprised 380 men from the Third Ljubljana Section; commanded by Zivko Bernot.
 - 4 Detachment, or "Luka Vidmar" Detachment - Comprised 1,200 men from the Fourth Ljubljana Section; commanded by Lojze Vojc.
 - 5 Detachment - Comprised 200 men from the Fifth Section of Ljubljana; commanded by Ciril Potocnik.

In addition to these five detachments, the partisans included three cavalry squadrons from 21 Cavalry Regiment of Ljubljana under the

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command of Captain Silvan Brams. These cavalry units were the only army elements among the defenders.

3. The Ljubljana Garrison gave the following materiel to the partisan staff for the maneuvers:

2,500 Mauser 9 mm. rifles
 100 Maxim automatic 9 mm. rifles
 20 heavy Schwarzlose 9 mm. machine guns
 80 motorcycles (25 with sidecars)
 22 trucks, each capable of carrying 30 men
 20 passenger cars (four-passenger capacity each)
 3 batteries of four anti-aircraft guns per battery
 3 observation planes
 7 radio stations
 17 telephones

In addition, 120 cavalymen, 70 cyclists and one platoon of 48 medics were assigned the defenders.

4. The defenders' task was to close the approach to Ljubljana through the Sava Valley and defend Ljubljana, while the attackers were to pass through the Valley from Medno, through Vizmarije and occupy Ljubljana by a breakthrough of the defenders' Sava-Vizmarije-Sent Vid lines. The partisans began to assemble near the Ljubo Sercer Home in Ljubljana the night of 13 January and when at full strength were divided into the five detachments. Each detachment assigned its personnel to mine-laying, artillery, machine gun, courier and liaison units and all personnel were provisioned theoretically with fifty cartridges each. The detachments reached their assigned defense line the morning of 14 January and the attack, which began before noon, lasted until two o'clock when the partisans counter-attacked and "saved" Ljubljana.
5. Following the "successful" counter-attack, a lecture was given to all who had participated in the maneuvers and was attended by Lt. General Dusan Kveder, Major General Niko Silih, Major General Ivan Lah, Major General Dako Semic, Lt. Colonel Vlado Krasovec and Lt. Colonel Franc Kuhar. Special mention was given to a total of 580 pre-military training youth of Ljubljana schools and the university, who distinguished themselves. Although pre-maneuver preparations were conducted for a month and a half, the maneuvers themselves reportedly showed excellent results. Preparations for spring maneuvers, which will utilize six thousand partisans and be held on Krim mountain near Ljubljana, have already begun.

Comment:

a Ljubljana practice air raid alert held on 25 February 1951.

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